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(54) Title: ASPARTYL PROTEASE INHIBITOR AS A NEMATODE ALLERGEN

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention is broadly directed to novel nematode allergens (polypeptides) and associated amino acid and nucleotide sequences including functional fragments and variants thereof to identify animals that are capable of becoming naturally resistant to nematodes. In particular, the present invention concerns the use of these molecules to, assist in selective breeding of animals capable of becoming naturally resistant to nematode infections. More, particularly, the invention is directed towards the use of nucleic acid molecules and polypeptides, which are the same or functional variants of, aspartyl protease inhibitors: (Tco-Aspin), of *Trichostrongylus colubriformis*; and/or (Oc-Aspin), of *Ostertagia circumcincta*; and/or (Hc-Aspin) *Haemonchus contortus* in identifying animals that are innately more disposed to nematodes.